

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2693

LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CI

SUBJECT: MORE ON CHILEAN CABINET CHANGES

REF: SANTIAGO 2676

1. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION APRIL 15 WITH MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC COORDINATION RAUL SAEZ, I FOUND HIM PLEASED AT COMPOSITION OF NEW CABINET, WITH ITS LARGER NUMBER OF CIVILIAN FACES.
 2. SAEZ STATED THAT FORMER MINISTER OF ECONOMY FERNANDO LENIZ, WHO HAD BEEN A MAINSTAY OF THE GOC'S ECONOMIC TEAM, HAS NOT, AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, LEFT THE GOVERNMENT FOR ANY EXTENDED PERIOD. WHAT IS PLANNED IS THAT MINISTER OF MINES, GENERAL AGUSTIN TORO, NOW IN EUROPE FOR CIPEC NEGOTIATIONS, WILL RESIGN ON RETURN TO CHILE AND WILL BE SUCCEDED BY LENIZ. CONSIDERING THAT AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT IS ACTUALLY RUN BY CAPABLE PROFESSIONAL RENATO GAZMURI AND NOT BY AILING GENERAL TUCAPEL VALLEJOS, THE MINISTER, SAEZ CALCULATES THAT THERE WILL BE EIGHT CIVILIANS IN NEW CABINET OF SEVENTEEN.
 3. NEWS REGARDING TORO CLARIFIES ONE SLIGHT ANOMALY IN ORGANIZATIONAL SHIFTS. WE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT EACH MILITARY SERVICE WOULD LOSE ONE SEAT IN CABINET, BUT ARMY APPEARED
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NOT TO HAVE DONE SO. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT BASIC POLITICAL

BALANCE HAS NOT BEEN UPSET.

4. SAEZ STATED THAT NEW MINISTER OF JUSTICE, MIGUEL SCHWEITZER, IS INVOLVED IN INTRA-GOVERNMENT DISCUSSIONS REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS. HE WILL NOW REVIEW DRAFT LEGISLATION ON INTERNAL SECURITY PROCEDURES. THIS WILL ENTAIL A DELAY OF A WEEK OR SO, BUT SAEZ CONTINUES CONFIDENT THAT NEW LEGISLATION WILL BE PROMULGATED. OTHER STEPS IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED BY SAEZ HAVE LIKEWISE BEEN DELAYED, BUT HE IS CONVINCED THEY WILL BE FORTHCOMING.
POPPER

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